

THE EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATION IN HAITI

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn yesterday of the 7.0 Richter scale earthquake that struck Haiti yesterday. As I speak, President Obama is preparing to address the Nation about our response and support. My heart goes out to the Haitian people.

I would also like to express our condolences to the United Nations peacekeeping organization there. Currently, it is expected there will be casualties from Brazil, China, Jordan, France, and other countries. The Montana Hotel, where I have been, was one of the places where the soldiers stayed and where many of the deaths were.

So as an earthquake of this magnitude and this aftershock have wrought extensive damage to Port-au-Prince, we say that we are here to add our support, and our prayers go out to the people of Haiti.

□ 1030

DEPUTY KENT MUNDELL, JR.

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, the people of the State of Washington are in a state of shock once again. They are in disbelief at the news that yet another police officer has been shot and killed in the line of duty. That makes six in the last 2 months in western Washington.

As a former cop myself, I will never forget the devastating time that we have gone through in the last couple months in losing these cops.

Last week, I attended the memorial for Pierce County Deputy Kent Mundell. He was 44 years old, and he died after being shot in the line of duty. He was able to kill the suspect, save other family members, his partner Sergeant Nick Hauser, and the community he had sworn to serve and protect. He paid the ultimate price.

Visiting at the hospital and attending his service and memorial, it is clear that Deputy Mundell had a heart full of life. He was willing and ready to serve. He was full of compassion for other human beings. And, now, that heart is silenced, and we all mourn this profound loss.

Deputy Mundell leaves behind his mom, his wife, his son and daughter, his partner, his entire law enforcement community, countless friends and loved ones. I ask this body, please, to keep them all in your prayers.

Deputy Kent Mundell, out of service, gone, but not forgotten.

JOBS

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Madam Speaker, 2010 may be a new year, but our top priorities remain the same: jobs, jobs, and jobs. We must stay focused on job creation to end this economic downturn.

With our national debt well over \$12 trillion, we cannot just rely on more spending to achieve our goals. Washington has to find the right balance between investing in our future and doing more with less.

This year, I will continue to push for projects that require common sense, not millions of dollars; projects that help communities attract new industries that will create jobs, get folks back to work, and put the economy back on track. I will also work to remove barriers to success for small businesses and curb excessive regulations that can slow growth.

These low-cost job creation efforts will spur economic recovery without further increasing the debt. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting them.

FOUR KEY HEALTH CARE MESSAGES FOR VOTERS 55 AND OLDER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, seniors who express concern about the Democrat plans for a government takeover of health care in our country are correct to be concerned for at least four reasons:

The Democrat health plans do not address the fundamental concern of lowering the cost of health care. Indeed, the Democrat plans do exactly the opposite by raising health care costs.

Not only will the Democrat health care plans cause health care costs to go up, they will raise taxes, increase the deficit, raise premiums, and hurt the quality of health care that Americans receive.

The funding mechanisms envisioned to pay the cost of Democrat health care will harm Medicare and devastate Medicare Advantage.

Passing the Democrats' health care bill will harm our economy at a time when we need to focus on creating jobs. I urge seniors to tell their Democrat representatives to vote "no" on this job-killing, deficit-raising bill.

ONE HUNDRED WAYS TO A HEALTHIER JOB MARKET

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, the Joint Economic Committee, which I chair, has just launched a non-partisan outreach looking for new and creative ideas to accelerate job creation in our struggling economy.

The JEC is looking for ideas that come from outside the bubble of the

Beltway and that may be outside the box of conventional thinking. We are surveying executives at Fortune 100 companies as well as at leading small businesses across America looking for their ideas and innovations.

The administration has already identified some of the things we must do to create jobs, including the passage of health care reform.

Under the status quo, the soaring costs of medical care serves as a hidden tax on employers in the form of higher health care premiums. But we are committed to doing more, and we are eager to hear the best ideas from the sharpest minds in the country, looking for innovative new ways to create jobs and produce an economy that is stronger, fairer, and brighter.

HEALTH CARE REFORM AND JOBS

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, Democrats in Congress have devoted job creation as the number one top priority that we are focusing on in this period.

The fact is that the Republican recession has created some of the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression. But it is important to note that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has actually helped our economy begin to recover, and it is important to make sure that Americans know this.

It is important for Americans to know that the Recovery Act has created more than 640,000 jobs since it was enacted almost a year ago, and could produce as many as 1.6 million jobs.

More is needed, but the Recovery Act has reduced job losses, reduced unemployment rates and the increase in the unemployment rate, and increased the gross domestic product.

So, Madam Speaker, the Democratic caucus will continue to focus on job creation and will continue to work well, and we hope to do this in a bipartisan way. But even if we can't, we will continue to make jobs first on the agenda.

VIETNAM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today representing the voice of my Vietnamese American constituency to once again bring attention to the deteriorating human rights conditions in Vietnam.

Last Wednesday, a number of Catholics were attacked by the police for reporting an incident where Vietnam Government officials destroyed a holy cross at the Dong Chiem parish. The removal of the cross was only one incident in a series of violent actions